from 01.02.2001. The Retail Issue Price of levy sugar is Rs. 13.50 per kg. which is uniform through out the country. The responsibility of regulating supply of sugar through the Pubic Distribution System and maintaining smooth operation of PDS in the State lies with the respective State Government.

PDS kerosene is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes allocation to States/UTs for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Government/ UT and the same varies from State to State. The prices of PDS kerosene vary from State to State depending upon the Sales Tax and dealers, commission. The price of PDS kerosene in Delhi is Rs. 9.05 per litre.

(c) to (e) PDS already covers all sections of the population- Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The demand is to increase number of BPL card holders, which is 6.52 crore households at present, based on the Plannig Commission's poverty estimates of 1993-94, as applied on the projected population of March 2000. Against 6.52 crore BPL families, States have already issued BPL cards to 9.83 crore households, including AAY.

Reviving of NCDEX

3065. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted to revive the National Commodity Derivative Exchange (NCDEX) that was banned in early sixties;

(b) if so, the reasons for its revival as intermediary between the producers and consumers of agro products;

(c) whether the spurt in prices of pulses and staple commodities in the market is directly attributable to this in between NCDEX;

(d) if so, whether we should need such a mechanism in our economic scenario and the conservative market; and

(e) if not, the other contrubuting factors for such raise and the benefit common men derive from NCDEX?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), Mumbai did not exist in early sixties and was never banned. The Government granted recognition of NCDEX on 20th November, 2003 on a permanent basis. The Exchange commenced its operations on 15th December, 2003.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reasons for rise in prices of pusles and staple commodities are mainly shortfall in domestic supply relative to demand and hardening of international prices of certain foodgrain items. Main benefits from futures trading at the commodity exchanges including at NCDEX are price discovery and the facility for price risk management by various categories of persons such as farmers, manufactures, exporters, consumers etc.

Kharif Procurement in WB

3066. SHRI MUKUL ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the kharif procurement targets in West Bengal during the last five years by the FCI and by the State Government;

(b) the achievements made during that period by them, separately;

(c) the reasons for non-achieving the targets by them, separately; and

(d) the target of kharif procurement from October, 2005 to September, 2006 and the achievements made by them separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Since procurement of foodgrains is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, estimates of paddy/rice procurement in each State (combined for FCI and State Agencies) are drawn up in a meeting of State Food Secretaries held before each Kharif Marketing Seasons (KMS). These estimates for West Bengal for last five years including the current KMS 2005-06 alongwith achievements made by FCI and State Agencies are enclosed at Statement.